

REMARKS

With respect to the claims, this application stands, as amended, with Claims 4-11, 14, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 28-30, 32-35 and 37-44 where Claims 37-44 are independent.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for his indication that Claims 4-7, 21, 23-24 and 26-32 contain allowable subject matter. In response, Applicant has cancelled Claims 21, 23, 26, 27 and 31 and added Claims 38-42 to place the allowable subject matter of dependent Claims 21, 23, 26, 27 and 31 in independent form.

Claim rejections under 35 USC § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, 8-20, 25 and 33-36 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,744,007 issued to Horak (the Horak patent). The Horak patent illustrates a three piece coaxial connector having a connector body 12, a movable cam sleeve 14 and a crimping washer 16. The cam sleeve and the crimping washer are disposed within the connector body. The crimping washer includes crimping teeth 16b that engage an electrical conductor when positioned in the connector body. The cam sleeve includes a camming surface 14b that leads to a straight edge. The camming surface and straight edge engage the crimping washer when the lock nut 20 is secured to the connector body.

The Horak patent, however, does not illustrate the crimping teeth of the crimping washer being ramp-shaped and the end of the cam sleeve being complimentarily ramp-shaped as recited in dependent Claim 3 of the present invention. As illustrated in Figures 1-3 of the Horak patent, the cam sleeve has a camming surface that engages the crimping teeth of the crimping washer but the camming surface is not complimentary to the shape of the crimping teeth.

Applicant has cancelled dependent Claim 3 and introduced new independent Claims 37 which is Claim 3 rewritten in independent form. As a result, Applicant asserts that independent Claim 37 and Claims 4-11 that depend therefrom are allowable over the Horak patent.

Additionally, the Horak patent fails to illustrate the inner periphery of the connector body and the outer periphery of the cam sleeve being threaded as set forth in dependent Claim 8. Instead, the connector body of the Horak patent is only threaded at one end of the connector body for receiving the lock nut and the cam sleeve does not include any threads on its outer periphery.

With respect to Claims 12-20, 25 and 33-36, Applicant has cancelled independent Claims 12 and 15 and added independent Claims 43 and 44. Dependent Claims 14, 33 and 34 depend from independent Claim 43 and dependent Claims 19, 20, 25 and 35 depend from independent Claim 44.

With respect to independent Claim 43, as discussed above, the Horak patent illustrates a three piece connector having a connector body, a cam sleeve and a crimping washer. The cam sleeve is mounted in the connector body and a shoulder on the inner wall of the connector body prevents the cam sleeve from being removed from the connector body once it is mounted. The crimping washer is also mounted in the connector body. The cam sleeve and the crimping washer are disposed within the connector body before an electrical conductor is inserted into the connector body. The Horak patent, however, fails to illustrate an electrical connector with a means for urging the penetration means being inserted into the housing after the penetration means surrounds the insulated electrical conductor to force the penetration means to penetrate the outer insulation layer of the insulated electrical conductor as set forth in newly added

independent Claim 43. As a result, Applicant asserts that independent Claim 43 and Claims 14, 33 and 34 that depend therefrom are allowable over the Horak patent.

With respect to independent Claim 44, as discussed above, the cam sleeve and the crimping washer of the Horak patent are mounted within the connector body before the electrical conductor is inserted into the connector body. Thus, the Horak patent fails to disclose or suggest a means for engaging the at least one clamping arm, wherein insertion of the means for engaging the at least one clamping arm into the open end of the housing causes the at least one clamping arm to penetrate the outer insulation layer of the insulated electrical conductor as set forth in newly added independent Claim 44. As a result, Applicant asserts that independent Claim 44 and Claims 19, 20, 25 and 35 that depend therefrom are allowable over the Horak patent.


Claim rejections under 35 USC § 103

The Examiner has rejected Claim 22 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Horak patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,408,822 issued to Nikitas (the Nikitas patent). Claim 22 now depends from new independent Claim 44. As discussed above, the Horak patent fails to illustrate a means for engaging the at least one clamping arm, wherein insertion of the means for engaging the at least one clamping arm into the open end of the housing causes the at least one clamping arm to penetrate the outer insulation layer of the insulated electrical conductor as set forth in independent Claim 44. The Nikitas patent also fails to illustrate a means for engaging the at least one clamping arm, wherein insertion of the means for engaging the at least one clamping arm into the open end of the housing causes the at least one clamping arm to penetrate the outer insulation layer of the insulated electrical conductor. As such, Applicant

respectfully submits that neither the Horak patent nor the Nikitas patent, either alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the invention as set forth in independent Claim 44. As a result, Applicant asserts that dependent Claim 22 is allowable over the Horak patent combined with the Nikitas patent and the rest of the prior art made of record.

For all of the reasons above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims as now amended. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,


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